

(4)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



Inventor/Applicant: Brad A. Armstrong

Title: GAME CONTROL WITH ANALOG PRESSURE SENSOR(S)

REMARKS:

Dear Sir:

This is in accordance with Rules 1.97, 1.98 and 1.56. I wish it to be known that I have a related co-pending U.S. non-provisional patent application titled "GAME CONTROLLER WITH ANALOG PRESSURE SENSOR(S)" filed Oct. 1, 1997, serial number 08/942,450, which claimed when filed the benefit of a Provisional application of the same title filed Sept. 17, 1997, serial number 60/059,125. The current status of application 08/942,450 is all pending claims are allowed and a Notice of Allowance has been issued.

I am at this time claiming the priority of the earlier filing date(s) of my application 08/942,450 for the instant application, and so the instant application is a Rule 1.53(b) continuation application. Further, the instant application, while having new claims, adds no new matter to my application 08/942,450.

A listing of all of the U.S. Patent prior art identified in the prior application 08/942,450 is included herewith on a substitute form for 1449A/PTO, but copies of the listed prior art have not been provided as such copies are present in the file wrapper of application 08/942,450.

It is also pointed out that in paper number 3 of application 08/942,450, a pre-examination amendment, that I detailed as much as I could about a believed to once exist prior art game controller having at least one depressible button to drive a gear and rotate a rotary potentiometer which creates an analog signal

change based on positional change. This rotary drive push button should be considered as prior art even though I have not personally seen it and have only heard that it once existed in the market place.

I also wish it to be known that I have recently conditionally assigned the instant invention, and the invention of my pending application 08/942,450 to a small business named ANASCAPE, a limited partnership. Just prior to ANASCAPE entering into the conditional assignment wherein I was paid a substantial amount of money, ANASCAPE had a Patent Law firm perform or have performed additional searching of the prior art. It is not known by Applicant as to what fields or even what specifically was the target of the search, however, the search seems to have been performed on a database called Questel-Orbit QWEB, and appears to have produced 24 pages of printed information. While I do not believe the search discloses prior art that is material to the patentability of the present invention as claimed, nevertheless I am submitting the search results in the interest of the fullest possible disclosure before the PTO.

All 24 pages of the Questel-Orbit QWEB search were provided to Mr. Kelly Tyler, the head decision maker at ANASCAPE around the time of Christmas 1999. The patent search information from Questel-Orbit QWEB provided to Mr. Tyler by his Patent Lawyer encouraged Mr. Tyler to enter into the agreement and pay me the substantial amount of money just shortly after he received the search results.

True copies of all 24 pages of the Questel-Orbit QWEB search results are provided herewith, identified by the above specified database name being printed at the top left of each page as well as the page number to the right. I have reviewed the information of the 24 pages and find nothing that is believed to materially effect the patentability of the instant invention, and clearly Mr. Tyler felt the same way since he paid me \$100,000.00 U.S. for entering into the conditional assignment / agreement after he received and reviewed the results of the Questel-Orbit search.

The new claims of the instant invention may at least in part read upon the allowed claims of the parent application, and it is requested that the Patent Office assist in identifying when "if ever" a possible Double patenting situation exists between the instant application and any of my many other currently pending U.S. applications.

I also have a related co-pending U.S. non-provisional patent application titled 6 DOF GRAPHIC CONTROLLER WITH SHEET CONNECTED SENSORS, application number 08/677,378 filed 07/05/96. I am not at this time claiming the priority of the earlier filing date of my application 08/677,378 for the instant application.

I also have yet another co-pending U.S. non-provisional patent application titled VARIABLE-CONDUCTANCE SENSOR WITH ELASTOMERIC DOME-CAP, application 09/122,269 filed 07/07/98. I am not at this time claiming the priority of the earlier filing date of this earlier 09/122,269 application of mine for the instant application.

I also have yet another co-pending U.S. non-provisional patent application titled REMOTE CONTROLLER WITH ANALOG BUTTON(S), application number 09/148,806 filed 09/04/98. I am not at this time claiming the priority of the earlier filing date of this earlier 09/148,806 application of mine for the instant application.

I also have still another co-pending U.S. non-provisional patent application titled COMPUTER MOUSE WITH ANALOG BUTTONS, application number 09/167,314 filed 10/06/98. I am not at this time claiming the priority of the earlier filing date of this earlier 09/167,314 application of mine for the instant application.

None of my above listed applications are believed to claim the same or identical invention as the instant application, however it is requested double patenting be kept in mind.

I also am the sole Inventor in, and owner of U.S. Patent 5,565,891 issued 10/15/96 for SIX DEGREES OF FREEDOM GRAPHICS CONTROLLER, which is a trackball type controller wherein many

different types of sensors are said to be useful therein for detecting force applied to the ball or displaceable ball support members.

I also am the sole Inventor in, and owner of U.S. Patent 5,589,828 issued 12/31/96 for 6 DEGREES OF FREEDOM CONTROLLER WITH CAPABILITY OF TACTILE FEEDBACK, which is a joystick type controller wherein many different types of sensors are said to be useful therein for detecting force applied to the arm, but which does not include the ability of the arm or main stick (lever) of the joystick to tilt.

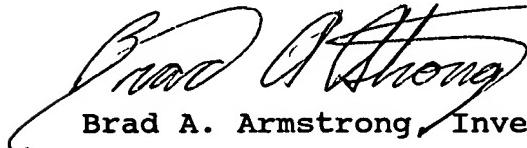
I also am the sole Inventor in, and owner of U.S. Patent 5,999,084 titled VARIABLE-CONDUCTANCE SENSOR filed June 29, 1998 and issued as a U.S. Patent Dec. 7, 1999.

At any time when the Patent Examiner believes the claiming of the benefit of the earlier filing date of any of the above applications for the instant application would be helpful in advancing the instant application toward allowance, the forwarding of such information to Applicant would be appreciated.

With the filing of this instant application and this Information Disclosure Statement, all information which is known by Applicant (Brad A. Armstrong) and believed possibly material to the patentability of the instant invention as claimed has been disclosed in good candor.

I believe the present claimed invention is patentable over the known prior art. I also believe the present invention is patentable over the inventions of my above mentioned co-pending applications and issued patents, but wish the issues pertaining to Double Patenting be considered by the PTO Examiners, as I want everything to be proper when my applications issue as U.S. Patents. Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Very Respectfully;

 Date: 2-22-00
Brad A. Armstrong, Inventor/Applicant